

BART STUPAK
1ST DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

2268 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2201

PHONE: (202) 225-4735
FAX: (202) 225-4744

<http://www.house.gov/stupak>
(Email through Website)

SCOTT SCHLOEGEL—CHIEF OF STAFF
TOM BALDINI—DISTRICT DIRECTOR



4 OCT 2010 RCUD

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

COMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
CHAIRMAN

COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET
COMMERCE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

CAUCUS LEADERSHIPS:
LAW ENFORCEMENT CAUCUS, Co-CHAIR
NORTHERN BORDER CAUCUS, Co-CHAIR
RURAL CAUCUS

September 29, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Chairman
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

MB. Lincum
1565

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to thank the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for the work that has already been done to process and grant WMKT-AM radio station's application to rebroadcast on FM Translator W221BQ Petoskey, Michigan (File number BSTA-20080220ABX), as well as to urge that WMKT be granted permission to move a translator location from Alpena to East Jordan, Michigan in one hop.

In 2007, the FCC granted WMKT's co-channel, Detroit radio station WXYT-AM (1270 AM) permission to change their tower site location and increase their signal strength during both daytime and nighttime broadcasting. As a result, WMKT's signal was severely and negatively impacted. FCC Detroit Field Office verified the damage by stating that in granting the license to WXYT, WMKT may have been the victim of an unpredictable phenomenon causing interference during their critical broadcasting hours.

In order to replicate the nighttime coverage WMKT charted before experiencing interference problems, in June of 2008, the FCC granted WMKT-AM permission to purchase two translators, one of which to be used immediately. Since that time, WMKT has found, purchased, and prepared to use the second translator. However, to ensure the station regains its original nighttime coverage, it is necessary that a newly purchased translator be moved from Alpena to East Jordan, Michigan.

Following FCC protocol, WMKT must apply for and receive permission to move a translator the maximum allowable distance of about ten miles per hop. Due to the significant distance between Alpena and East Jordan, it would take WMKT multiple applications, multiple hops, and a total of two years before use of the mentioned translator is possible. WMKT offers an exceptional service providing news, public safety information, weather updates, election coverage, and other essential local programming to northern Michigan residents.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 616 SHELDON
HOUGHTON, MI 49931
(906) 482-1371 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 SOUTH 6TH STREET
SUITE 3
CRYSTAL FALLS, MI 49920
(906) 875-3751 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1229 WEST WASHINGTON
MARQUETTE, MI 49855
(906) 228-3700 | <input type="checkbox"/> 902 LUDINGTON STREET
ESCANABA, MI 49829
(906) 786-4504 | <input type="checkbox"/> 200 DIVISION STREET
PETOSKEY, MI 49770
(231) 348-0657 | <input type="checkbox"/> 111 EAST CHISHOLM
ALPENA, MI 49707
(989) 356-0690 | <input type="checkbox"/> 575 COURT STREET
WEST BRANCH, MI 48661
(989) 345-2258 |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|

DISTRICT TOLL FREE: 800-950-REP1 (7371)

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

A two year delay in the full recovery of WMKT nighttime coverage is detrimental to the livelihood of the radio station, and ultimately deprives local citizens an important service. I urge you to look at WMKT's predicament as a unique situation, deserving of unique treatment. Granting WMKT permission to move translator locations in one hop will allow the radio station to thrive, ensuring that local programming reaches their public domain.

I thank you again for the work you have already done to remedy this problem, and look forward to continue working with you until the issue is resolved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bart Stupak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bart" and last name "Stupak" clearly distinguishable.

BART STUPAK
Member of Congress

BTS/ mm



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

November 2, 2010

The Honorable Bart Stupak
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stupak:

Thank you for your letter regarding MacDonald Garber Broadcasting, Inc. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention and have directed the Chief of the Media Bureau's Office of Communications and Industry Information to look into this matter. I am pleased to provide the enclosed letter addressing your concerns.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

November 2, 2010

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CN-1001565

The Honorable Bart Stupak
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stupak:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of WMKT(AM), Charlevoix, Michigan, which is licensed to MacDonald Garber Broadcasting, Inc. ("MGBI"). MGBI is interested in relocating a FM translator station from Alpena, Michigan to East Jordan, Michigan. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

A review of the Commission's records indicates that MGBI is not the current licensee of a FM translator station that is located in Alpena. The Commission also does not have a record of a pending application proposing to move a FM translator from Alpena to East Jordan. If MGBI wishes to move a FM translator station from Alpena to East Jordan in one "hop", it would be considered a "major change" application, and such applications are accepted only during designated filing windows. Any "major change" application submitted outside of a filing window must include a waiver request and supporting documentation that demonstrates good cause to grant the waiver.

The Media Bureau staff is available to discuss the Commission's regulations governing the relocation of FM translator stations. If MGBI has any additional questions regarding this matter, a representative may contact Mr. James Bradshaw at (202) 418-2739.

I hope that this information is helpful and please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Perko", is written over the typed name.

Michael S. Perko
Chief, Office of Communications and Industry Information
Media Bureau